(c) The Small Coins (Offences) Act 1971 empowers the Government to take legal action against any person who melts or destroys small coins. Instructions to the Various State Governments/ Union Territories have been issued to take action in the light of the Small Coins (Offences) Act 1971, under report to this Ministry, immediatey whenever melting of coins for any purpose is reported. No such report has been received so far. In addition, steps have been taken by Government to keep the face value higher than the metal value of the coin so as to make any large scale meeting of coin for any commercial purpose economically not viable.

**Suspension of officers of Punjab and Sind Bank of Jalandhar area on account of fictitious truck advances**

2989. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 385 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st August, 1984 and state:

(a) whether the managers and officials of the Punjab and Sind Bank, Jalandhar area branches have since been placed under suspension on account of their involvement in truck scandal cases;

(b) whether all these fictitious truck loans were sanctioned by the then Zonal Manager, Amritsar, Mr. H. S. Nanda and that no action has been taken against him and as a reward he has been transferred to a bigger zonal office, *i.e.* Chandigarh; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to investigate into the involvement of the Zonal Manager, Mr. Nanda in the truck advance cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and, to the extent available and permissible under the provisions of the statutes governing banks and the customs and usages prevalent amongest bankers, will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Unauthorised advances by the Juhu branch of Punjab and Sind bank, Bombay**

2990. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Juhu (Bombay) branch of Punjab and Sind Bank has made unauthorised advances during 1980 to 1983 to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs to different parties out of which a lot of persons are untraceable and seem to be fictitious;

(b) whether it is a fact that advances meant to be given to weaker sections, under DRI scheme have been given to such persons who do not come under this scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that branch managers responsible for these acts have been transferred to some other branches in the same capacity and no. action has been taken against them;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what steps are being taken to investigate the matter for taking necessary action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that during the period 1980-83, the Managers posted at Juhu (Bombay) Branch had made advances beyond their discretionary powers, amounting to approximately Rs. 20 lakhs. The Bank has also reported that some parties are not traceable now.

(b) The Bank has intimated that no case has come to its notice where advances under DRI Scheme has been given by its Juhu (Bombay) Branch to persons who did not come under this Scheme.

(c) to (e) The Bank has reported that the Branch Managers have been transferred to other branches in the same capacity. It has initiated disciplinary action against one of the Managers for his acts of omission and commission at

Juhu Branch. As regards the other Branch Manager, the Bank will take necessary disciplinary action against him shortly.

**Evasion of excise duty and income-tax by M|S. impex international, Bombay**

2991. SHRIMATI MANORAMA PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M|s. Impex International, Dadamal Chambers, 309, New Marine Lines, Bombay have evaded excise duty, wealth tax and income-tax to the tune of several lakhs of rupees during the last three years,

(b) whether it is also a fact that recently the Income Tax Department has on an inquiry found that the company has submitted false income-tax returns for the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken to recover the excise duty, wealth tax and income-tax dues from the above company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Meeting of Alang ship breakers with Finance Minister**

2992. SHRI RAMSINGH BHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in 'Fulchhab' (Gujarat Daily of Rajkot, Gujarat) of the 11th November, 1985 at page 12 colum 8 captioned 'Meeting of Alang ship breakers with the Finance Minister, Shri V. P. Singh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any memorandum or representation/letter, etc. has been handed over by them during the said meeting;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken by Government thereon; and

(e) what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (e) The representatives of the ship breaking industry in Gujarat have requested for relief in Customs and Central Excise duties demanded from them. They have also requested that they should not be required to obtain Central Excise licences or to pay any Central Excise dues retrospectively. These ship breakers had met the Finance Minister and had submitted a represntation in this regard. The matter is being examined in consultation with hte Ministry of Steel but no final decision has been taken.

**Seizure of gold bisuits, etc.**

2993. SHRI RAMSINGH BHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a massive anti smuggling operation on the 7th November, 1985 detectives of the Preventive unit of the Customs Department posted at Palam seized smuggled gold biscuits, wrist watches, etc. worth over Rs. 77 lakhs from the cargo godown of a foreign airline;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the persons involved and what action has been taken against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) On 5-11-1985, the officers of the Customs Collectorate, Delhi, intercepted and examined two packages whcih had arrived from Hong Kong and were awaiting transhipment to Kabul/Kathmandu. On examination, 3392 wrist watches valued at Rs. 13.57 lakhs and 20 Kgs. of a basic drug were recovered and seized.